GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3790
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2002
TESTS FOR HIV CONFIRMATION
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the tests done under National AIDS Control Programme for confirmation of HIV;

(b) whether HIV confirmation tests are different for children of various age groups; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): There are various tests available of HIV based on the detection of antibodies and virus particles. These tests are:
(i) Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assays (ELISA);
(ii) Rapid HIV tests;
(iii) Western Blot (WB);
(iv) Indirect Fluroscent Antibody test (IFA); and
(v) Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) for detecting virus particles .

Under the National AIDS Control Programme, ELISA and Rapid HIV Assays are being used for diagnosis of HIV infected persons asymptomatic HIV persons and epidemiological surveillance.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. The HIV status of children below the age of 2 years can be detected by a test known as Polymerase Chain reaction. Children have passive antibodies from HIV infected mothers which may not reveal the true HIV status of the child.These antibodies disappear around 18 months of age when sero conversion takes place. Thereafter, HIV can be detected by conventional tests.